

From: Jim Haliburton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/11/01 9:00pm
Subject: Settlement

Good day:

As a Canadian we did not get the press coverage that was often the case in the US on this matter. Also in a strictly legal point I as a Canadian probably don't have much standing in US eyes.

I have been in the IT business for too long. What has been a fond hope is that a real penalty would be assessed to Microsoft. If any other industry was controlled or monopolized as much as the desktop computer industry it might appear to an outsider that it was a government agency. If this was a consumer product the consumer product safety branch would have removed the product from shelves years ago. If it was an auto the whole company would have been recalled.

The economic impact of Microsoft's monopoly, which judgement of being a monopoly was not overturned, as I understand, has been severely detrimental. Because of the stranglehold this monopoly has created world wide, people and businesses are being negatively impacted by poor quality, worm and virus prone, insecure software. The economic impact of Microsoft's all pervasive position is just as detrimental to the world as the World Trade Center bombing. It just happens a few dollars at a time at every desk for every user every day, not dramatically, not live on TV.

Microsoft has created a monopoly where mediocrity is the norm and quality products are either shunned, ridiculed, bought out and shut down, or destroyed by the practices that the court found monopolistic.

In Canada we have no government that either understands this or has the intellectual resources to take on Microsoft. The wealth of Gates turns a lot of political heads.

Many of us were hoping that a committed US DOJ would be able to do what everyone else in the world is unable to do. Some international agency can tell you how many countries Gross Domestic Products does it take to reach the wealth of Mr. W. Gates.

Today the US is the only power that can engage in sustained military actions on the other side of the world. Taking on those persons and organizations that kill and maim is the responsibility of a great and just power. One had hopes that same commitment would have continued in the attempt to take on the software terrorist that is Microsoft.

In reality it appears that Bin Laden and the other terrorists were pushovers compared to Microsoft.

I am saddened and disappointed in the settlement.

Regards

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